

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7939

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10264

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM BYROADE

E.O. 11752: GDS

TAGS: PK, US, MASS

SUBJECT: ASROC FOR GEARING DESTROYERS

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WILL BE SEEING AZIZ AHMED SOON AS PART OF YOUR SERIES OF BILATERALS AT THE UNGA. I AM CERTAIN THAT NEA HAS PREPARED USEFUL BRIEFING PAPERS FOR YOUR TALK, BUT I DID WANT TO MENTION ONE SPECIFIC ITEM AZIZ MAY RAISE WITH YOU.

2. YOU WILL RECALL THAT DURING YOUR VISIT TO PAKISTAN THE ONLY MILITARY SUPPLY QUESTION THAT BHUTTO RAISED IN THE LARGER MEETING WAS WHETHER WE COULD MAKE ASROC - BASICALLY A STAND-OFF DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR TORPEDOES - AVAILABLE ON THE TWO GEARING CLASS DESTROYERS WE ARE SELLING PAKISTAN. YOU TOLD HIM THAT WE WOULD SEE WHAT WE COULD DO AND WOULD INFORM HIM OF THE RESULTS. I CONSEQUENTLY EXPECT THAT AZIZ MAY WELL RAISE THIS WITH YOU AND ASK IF YOU HAVE HAD ANY SUCCESS IN FINDING TWO ASROC UNITS FOR THE GEARINGS.

3. BOTH STATE AND CERTAIN OFFICES IN DOD HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE THE ASROC AVAILABLE. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO SECURITY DESCLOSURE PROBLEM; THE CENTRAL QUESTION IS AVAILABILITY OF THE SYSTEM. THE US NAVY HAS STOPPED ASROC PRODUCTION AND AS  
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THE NAVY DECOMMISSIONS ASROC EQUIPPED SHIPS - INCLUDING

THE GEARINGS EARMARKED FOR TRANSFER TO PAKISTAN - THE ASROC IS REMOVED AND TRANSFERRED TO NEWER USN SHIPS.

4. SINCE BHUTTO IS ASKING TO PURCHASE ASROC FOR ONLY TWO DESTROYERS AND HAS RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH YOU PERSONALLY, I HOPE WE CAN FIND A WAY TO BE FORTHCOMING IN MEETING HIS CONCERN. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED AN EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PAK NAVY, AS EVIDENCED BY PAK SPONSORSHIP OF THIS YEAR'S CENTO MIDLINK EXERCISE, USN PORT CALLS (INCLUDING NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS) AND REPAIR FACILITIES AT KARACHI. IF WE CAN COMPLETE THE GEARING SALES PACKAGE BY MAKING THE ASROC AVAILABLE AS WELL, IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL AT THIS STAGE IN US/PAK RELATIONS.  
BYROADE

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